

November 18, 1999

Assistant Secretary John Berry  
c/o Document Management Unit,  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW, Mailstop 7229  
Washington, D. C., 20240

Dear Mr. Assistant Secretary:

As a result of the apology bill your office is sending representatives to Hawaii to gather testimony regarding reconciliation with Native Hawaiians.

I believe that the people of Hawaii, along with the rest of the Nation have been misled by the Hawaiian sovereignty activist with regard to their selective quoting of Hawaii's history. The history of the 50th State involves more than people of only Hawaiian ancestry.

1. Activist claim that their lands were stolen. Not true.  
From the time of King Kamehameha The Great, until the reign of King Kamehameha III, a feudal system prevailed. The King was feudal lord, lesser chiefs paid rent for their land. Chief's rented to lesser tenants and sub-tenants. The rest of the masses lived as squatters and paid for their stay with two days work per week. One day for the immediate landlord, and one day for the King. In 1848, influenced by American missionaries, Kamehameha III ended the feudal system (the Great Mahele) dividing all the lands much of it in fee simple. The result;

Crown lands, private property of the King, 915,000 acres.  
Government lands, 1,495,000 acres. (Today's ceded lands)  
Chiefs and Nobles, 4,010,000 acres.  
11,132 commoners, 28,658 acres, approximately 2.5 acres each.  
The majority received nothing.


2. Activist favor their own sovereignty, or self determination. The monarchy is pau; (over). History indicates that the government under the last two monarchs were corrupt and incompetent, and in time could not survive on it's own. Previous monarchs knew that Hawaii would always require protection of a larger nation and attempted to give up sovereignty to England. From the time of the overthrow of 1893, up to 1978, Native Hawaiians never continuously fought for sovereignty. Hawaiians were well assimilated into the American form of government. Now over the past twenty years, all this talk about how rough it is to be Native Hawaiian. Thank God, Hawaii was annexed by the United States.
3. Activist claim sovereignty was never given up. Not true. Shortly after the coup de'tat of 1893, Queen Liliuokalani surrendered to the United States. (cont'd next page)

The United States refused to assist the Queen's return to power when she insisted on beheading the revolutionist. Liliuokalani did give up her throne.

4. Activist claim that the United States took over Hawaii in 1893 resulting in annexation. Not true. After the revolution, the Provisional Government of Hawaii remained independantly in power until the annexation in 1898.
5. Activist claim United States armed forces assisted in the overthrow of the monarchy. Not true. In 1874, American troops aided in keeping peace when the Hawaiian legislature chose Kalakaua as King over the former Queen dowager and Queen Emma's suporters rioted. 1893 was not the only time American soldiers marched in to maintain order.
6. Activist claim Native Hawaiians are wards of the state and at a disadvantage. Not true. They are United States citizens with extra programs. They become wards only if they want to be. Hawaiians are recipients of programs not afforded other citizens. Such as, The Kamehameha Schools (wealthiest in the nation), Liliuokalani Trust, Queen Emma Foundation (Queens Hospital), Lunalilo Trust, Alu Like (education, job assistance), Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), Hawaiian Home Lands, and Special Medical Programs.
7. Activist claim Hawaiians are the "Indigenous" people of these islands. Not true. Archaeologist have proved that their first ancestors came from the Marquesas and later Tahiti. The first settlers arrived about the year 800 A.D. (Hon. Advertiser 10-28-99) They were the first in a long series of immigrants. The ancestors of today's Native Hawaiians arrived first. So everyone whose ancestors arrived later should pay them? So Mr. Assistant Secretary, should you move to Hawaii, then you should pay me. I was here before you.

As a taxpaying American why must I pay for something I had nothing to do with? I didn't steal any land. The Hawaiian people of 1999 did not loose any land. These people are trampling on everyone's rights. They are **NOT** victims. I call it mooching, pure and simple. The only reason this vocal minority of Hawaiians are attempting to extract whatever they can get is because for them it is free money. People have got to go and study Hawaii's history for themselves and not accept selective interpretation and lies by omission. Enough is enough.

Congress and the President apologized, but I sure won't.

  
Earl Arakaki  
91-030 Amio Street  
Ewa Beach, HI., 96706